

Tarrants' Search Widened

PARCHMAN, Miss. (AP) — State and federal officers intensified the search Thursday for three butcher knife-armed Mississippi State Penitentiary escapees who fled the sprawling penal farm in the Delta Wednesday night.

The Mississippi Highway Patrol said as of Thursday afternoon officers had been unable to locate Thomas Albert Tarrants III, 22, of Mobile, Ala., Lewis Shadoan, 46, of Indianapolis, Ind., and Malcolm E. Houston, 29, of Flint, Mich.

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents joined the manhunt, officers said, on the basis of three outstanding federal warrants for Tarrants and all three for unlawful flight to avoid confinement.

Tarrants is the most controversial of the three escapees, having been sentenced to 30 years last December after his conviction at Meridian for the attempted bombing of a Meridian Jewish businessman's home.

Officers said Shadoan was serving a sentence from Neshoba County for child molesting while Houston was under sentence from Warren County for robbery.

Tarrants, who describes

himself as a Ku Klux Klan guerrilla fighter, was captured in June of 1968 after a running gun battle with police outside the Meridian home of Meyer Davidson. Tarrants' woman companion was killed in the fight, and two Meridian policemen wounded.

At the trial of Tarrants police testified that the slightly built man placed 29 sticks of dynamite on a sidewalk. Davidson had led a drive which raised \$80,000 as a reward for the capture and conviction of those responsible for the bombing of a Meridian synagogue.

A spokesman for the FBI in Jackson said federal agents were seeking Tarrants on warrants for bank robbery and interstate transportation of a stolen vehicle. They also sought the Alabama man for violation of the Federal Firearms Act. All three, the FBI said, were sought for unlawful flight to avoid confinement.

Authorities said the search still centered in the Parchman area although other areas were being covered. "We are not taking any chances."

A prison spokesman said "No one was hurt" when the three fled with knives, but declined to give any additional details of the escape.